

TOWN OF NEWINGTON
BOARD OF ETHICS ORGANIZATIONAL MEETING
April 17, 2017
Town Hall Main Level, Conference Room 1

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2017 APR 18 PM 4:29


Town Clerk

I. Call to Order – Town Manager, Tanya Lane, called the meeting to order at 5:15 PM.

II. Roll Call—Members Present: John Donohue, Andrew Follo, Frank Marci, Judith Mortensen. Others present: Tanya Lane, Town Manager; Roy Zartarian, Mayor.

III. Election of Chairperson—when no names were brought forward, Frank Marci volunteered to act as Chair of the Board. He was unanimously endorsed. Town Manager, Tanya Lane, indicated that the Board would also need to elect a Vice Chair, but suggested that this position not be filled until all the vacancies had been filled.

IV. Public Participation—Councilor Anest, 30 Harding Avenue, expressed concern and questioned the short notice for the call of the meeting. Rose Lyons, 46 Elton Drive asked that minutes from the last Board of Ethics meeting (5/7/15) be posted to the website. Sue Mazzoccoli, 149 Harris Drive asked about de facto membership wondering if it applied to the Board of Ethics, and if she qualified as a de facto member.

V. Discussion: Board of Ethics

1. Complaint and Meeting Procedure—The Town Manager presented a brief overview regarding the purpose of the Board of Ethics pointing out that public office is not for personal gain. Public officials are held to a higher standard and should be independent, impartial and responsible to the people.

She talked about the role of public officials and employees and their responsibility to avoid conflicts of interest and conduct themselves in a manner that will scrupulously avoid any conflict of interest. Mrs. Lane pointed out that public officials and employees should not disclose confidential information or divulge personal matters pertaining to others.

Mrs. Lane talked about gifts and gratuities—public officials and employees should not solicit or accept any gift valued at more than \$25. If a situation arose where it was impossible or inappropriate to refuse a gift, then it should be turned over to a charitable institution, the Town Manager or the Superintendent of Schools, along with a written report.

Mrs. Lane referred to the Disclosure Form (which is a listing of specific holdings, real estate and associations) and is filed with the Town Clerk. She covered the timeline and the complaint procedure emphasizing that all proceedings are confidential. The Mayor clarified that the parameters of Freedom of Information would apply to those specific areas of the Board of Ethics over which this statute would have jurisdiction.

2. Other Business Pertinent to the Board—Discussion regarding various questions by Board members that might require Town Attorney input. The Mayor volunteered to contact Ben Ancona and ask that he attend the next meeting. The consensus was that a list of questions should be prepared ahead of the next meeting and submitted to the Town Attorney giving him time to research the answers. The Board set the next meeting for June 12, 2017 at 5:15 PM—location TBD.

VI. Public Participation—Sue Mazzoccoli, 149 Harris Drive asked if the Code of Ethics was on the website.

VII. Remarks by Board Members—None

VIII. Adjournment—the meeting adjourned at 5:50 PM.

Respectfully submitted,


Tanya D. Lane
Town Manager